

Board of Governance Meeting Minutes Valley Regional Fire Authority



Meeting Date: October 8, 2024
Time: 5:15 p.m.
Location: 1101 D St NE, Auburn, WA 98002

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Backus called the Valley Regional Fire Authority (VRFA) Board of Governance Regular Meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

A. Flag Salute

Chair Backus led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Roll Call

Chair Nancy Backus, Vice Chair Troy Linnell, Member Vic Kave (Excused), Member Kerry Garberding, Member Lynda Osborn, Member Larry Brown (Excused), Member Bill Thomas, Member Tracy Taylor, and Member Eric Petersen.

Staff members present included Deputy Tim Day, Deputy Chief Rick Olson, CFO Mark Horaski, HR Director Sarah Borden, Legal Council Brian Snure (Excused), and Clerk of the Board Stefanie Harper(Virtual).

C. Announcements, Proclamations, and Presentations

There were no announcements, proclamations, or presentations.

D. Appointments

There were no appointments.

E. Agenda Modifications

There were no agenda modifications.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS, CITIZEN INPUT, AND CORRESPONDENCE

A. Public Hearings

There were no public hearings.

B. Audience Participation

There was no audience participation.

C. Update from IAFF Local #1352

There was no update from IAFF Local #1352.

D. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

II. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**A. Finance Committee**

Chair Osborn stated that the Finance Committee met this evening and recommended the Board approve Claims and Payroll, and Resolution No. 199.

IV. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

There were no Board Member reports.

V. STAFF REPORTS

Chief Thompson provided the Board with the following update:

Staffing Update: Our four recruits are progressing well in the academy. Deputy Chief Olson met with each recruit and their training officers last week for their first review, and everyone is performing as expected at this stage.

The CARES team has welcomed a new intern from the University of Washington, who is studying for her Master's in Social Work. She comes to us after spending two years with Catholic Community Services.

Next week, we are excited to introduce three new team members to CRR at Station 35. First, we have a new Administrative Assistant with prior experience at another fire agency. We're also welcoming a new Clinical Care Navigator, a position funded through the King County grant. Finally, we are thrilled to announce the hiring of a Project Manager, who joins us from a large project management firm with extensive experience overseeing major public and private sector projects, including new school builds and the rebuild of Fred Hutch. Her background in capital projects will be a tremendous asset as we move forward with our station builds.

In response to the recent hurricanes in Florida and North Carolina, we have deployed members who are part of USAR and Search and Rescue teams. They have landed and are en route to their base. We also have additional personnel ready to respond if needed.

Deputy Chief Day provided a handout (copy attached) and gave an update to the Board on the CARES team's accomplishments and current call data. The following update was provided:

The handout reflects 2 ½ years of data, showing that the number of enrollments started and closed closely match, which means the team is consistently opening and closing cases for community members in need. Notably, there has been a 22% decrease in 911 usage among individuals who have completed their CARES plans, illustrating the effectiveness of the program in connecting people to the right resources.

However, two concerning trends are highlighted. The average number of open enrollments and the average length of time those cases remain open are both increasing, signaling that too many community members are waiting too long for assistance. Additionally, there has been a decline in the number of CARES referrals from firefighters, possibly due to stress on the program, with firefighters recognizing the program's capacity challenges.

Despite these issues, the overall data reflects a successful CARES model, significantly reducing 911 call volume by connecting individuals to long-term resources. To address the delays in triage and

enrollment, the team is exploring options to add additional FTEs to the program and plans to present these options to the Board in future meetings.

VI. CONSENT ITEMS

All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered by the Governance Board to be routine and may be approved by one motion.

A. Minutes

The minutes of the September 10, 2024, Regular Meeting were reviewed.

B. Vouchers

1. Claims

Check numbers 212157 through 212225 in the amount of \$1,197,568.78 and electronic payments in the amount of \$60,737.52 totaling \$1,258,306.30 dated September 11, 2024.

2. Payroll

Payroll check number 212156 in the amount of \$9,225.00 and electronic deposit transmissions in the amount of \$2,323,539.91 for a grand total of \$2,314,314.91 for the period covering August 1, 2024, to August 31, 2024.

There being no further discussion or questions, Member Peterson moved, and Member Garberding seconded the approval of the Consent Items.

Board member Vic Kave stated for the record at the February 13, 2024, Board meeting that his vote on consent agendas excludes any vote on the payment of his post-retirement medical benefit from which he abstains, so Board member Kave has abstained from Voucher #DFT0010848

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 - 0

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

IX. RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS

A. Resolution No. 199

CFO Horaski introduced Resolution No. 199, which provides the authority to contract indebtedness for the issuance, sale, and delivery of bonds for the construction of new stations. The Bond Counsel and Bond Underwriter are in attendance to present and address any questions from the Board. Horaski also shared positive news, noting that current interest rates suggest the levy rate may be 3 to 5 cents lower per \$1,000 than initially estimated. Additionally, if the rates remain stable at the time of issuance, taxpayers could save up to \$3 million by issuing bonds in two phases.

The Bond Counsel provided an update on the bond market as VRFA prepares for the first phase of bond issuance. They expect to contact Standard & Poor's Rating Agency for a rating on the new bonds, following the rating of the VRFA's outstanding bonds. They also mentioned that the preparation of the disclosure statement has started, with the bond issuance expected to enter

the public market in late December, and the funds being transferred to King County for phase one of the project. They emphasized VRFA’s strong credit standing, which will be included in the disclosure statement.

The Bond Underwriter, who has worked with the VRFA on previous bond measures, explained that this resolution would allow the bond money to be issued in phases. This phased issuance will save taxpayers money by paying interest only on the funds used in each phase, rather than on the full amount all at once. By approving the resolution, the Board would grant authority for the bond issuance to occur until December 31, 2027. These bonds are straightforward general obligation bonds.

Discussion ensued

There being no questions or discussions, Member Garberding moved, and Member Taylor seconded the approval of the Resolution No 199.

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X. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

There was no information or discussion.

XI. EXECUTIVE OR CLOSED SESSION

There was no executive or closed session.

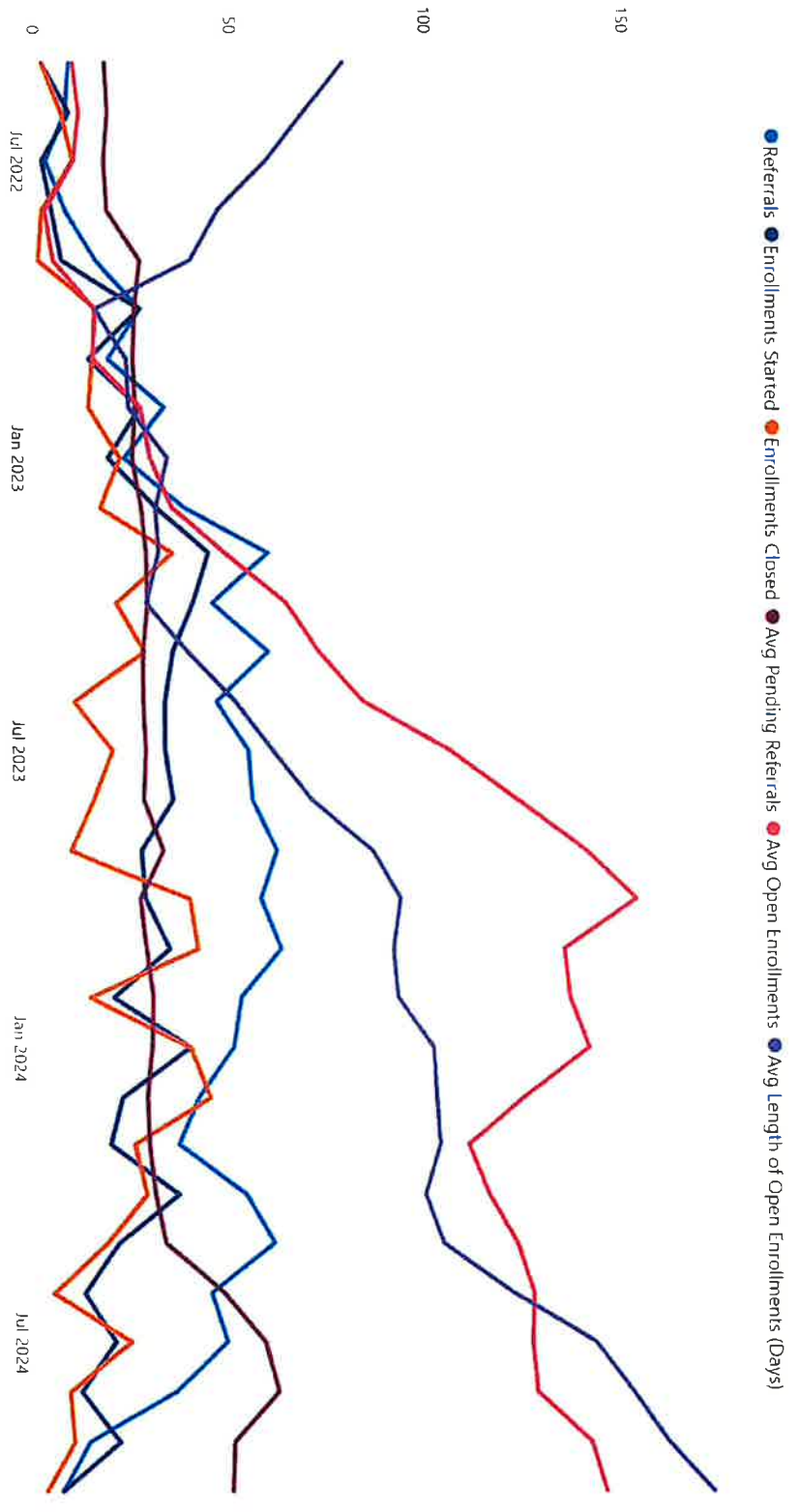
XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Dated this 12th day of November 2024

Nancy Backus
Nancy Backus
Chair

S. Harper
Stefanie Harper
Clerk of the Board



Date
5/16/2022
10/8/2024

-341	Call Reduction
-22.33%	Reduction %
1120	Referrals
674	Enrollments Started
539	Enrollments Closed
83.06	Avg Open Enrollments
74.95	Avg Length of Open Enrollments
49	Current Pending Referrals
145	Current Open Enrollments
125	Current Enrollments w/ No Contact
144	Employee Current Caseload
7	atalam
13	slopes
20	Total

- Efficiency in close association of enrollments closed (orange) & enrollments started (navy).
 - 22.33% reduction in 911 use post program completion.
- Unmet & growing demand in close association of number of open enrollments (pink) & length of open enrollments (lilac).
 - 144 continued 911 calls while waiting contact.
- Increasing number (pink) & duration (lilac) of open enrollments and number of pending referrals (purple) may be influencing decreasing number of referrals (blue).